

The Point Is . . .

Children use a fancy painting technique as they remember that the Holy Spirit fills believers with power.

Resource Type: Art

Story Name: The Holy Spirit

Learner Level: Grades 5-6

Supplies:

Cotton swabs

Watercolor paints

Small cups for water

Pencils with erasers

Construction paper or watercolor paper

Set Up:

Consider creating a painting to use as an example. Create shape stencils to use as guides (optional).

Instructions:

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit revealed itself as flames of fire on the heads of the disciples! The Holy Spirit is very real, but it isn't often seen or heard. As Jesus' followers, we need to seek out the Holy Spirit's message for us. It might not show up as obviously as a flame of fire, but it is ALWAYS there. Today, you are going to create paintings of Christian symbols, but you may only use dots to create them, no lines. The symbols might seem hidden, but when we back up and view them from a distance, their messages will be clear.

1. Make sure each kid has access to the cotton swabs, paint sets, water cups, and paper.
2. **Today, you will be using a technique called pointillism to create a painting. When artists use this technique, they apply small dots of color to the paper so that at a distance, the dots blend together to create a picture.**
3. **First, sketch out your drawing very lightly with a pencil. When your painting has dried, you will erase the lines, so make them very light. You may choose to sketch a cross, a flame, or another symbol that reminds you of the Holy Spirit.**
4. When kids are finished sketching, say, **Now choose two colors that you will use in each section of your painting. It is best to use just one or two similar colors in each section. For example, you can use red and orange dots for your cross and purple and blue for the background. To create your painting, wet a cotton swab and dip it into your paint, then dab dots onto your paper. Try to avoid making dots along your sketch lines. The closer the dots, the more clear your picture will appear.**
5. Allow the paintings to dry, then erase the pencil lines.

Your paintings look great! I hope whenever you see these great works of art, you'll remember that the Holy Spirit fills believers with power.

If you have less time . . .

Limit the number of symbols kids can sketch and the number of colors they can use or the size of their paintings.

If you have more time . . .

Use a smaller tip to create the dots (such as the handle-end of a paintbrush).

Many Languages, One Spirit

Kids decode a Bible passage written in different languages as they remember that the Holy Spirit fills believers with power.

Resource Type: Activity

Story Name: The Holy Spirit

Learner Level: Grades 5-6

Spark Resources:

Bible Verse Page, 2 copies

Supplies:

Envelopes, 2

Set Up:

Set aside one (uncut) copy of the Bible Verse Page for reference. Cut the second Bible Verse Page apart, first separating the different languages, then cutting the passage in each language apart so that each verse of the scripture is its own strip. Place the German strips in one envelope and the Swahili strips in the second envelope. Set aside the English strips.

Instructions:

The Holy Spirit can do incredible things. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit made tongues of fire appear above the heads of the disciples and helped people who spoke different languages to understand what others were saying. Why do you think the Holy Spirit made it possible for people of different languages to understand each other? (because when all people could understand each other, they could hear the word of God) Today, you are going to experience how difficult it is to understand the word of God when it is not presented in your own language.

1. Divide the group into two teams, then give an envelope to each team.
2. **When you open your team's envelope, you will find four verses from today's Bible story. The verses will not be in English. Your job will be to put the verses in order. When you think that you have the verses in the correct order, raise your hand and I will check them to see if they are correct. If the verses aren't quite right, you will have two more chances to get them into the correct order. Ready, set, go!**
3. Encourage kids to try placing their strips of paper in the right order. Once both teams get the verses laid out correctly, read the English translation aloud for the entire class to hear.

We may have trouble understanding unfamiliar languages sometimes, but the Holy Spirit used its power to help everyone understand each other so they could all hear the word of God. The Holy

Spirit helps all believers—no matter what language they speak. The Holy Spirit fills believers with power!

If you have less time . . .

Hand out strips of paper with the first verse of the passage written in different languages. Invite kids to try their best to read the passage out loud in German and Swahili, then read the English version for all to hear.

If you have more time . . .

Direct the teams to exchange envelopes after the first round and try the exercise again.

Prayer:

For our closing prayer today, we are going to thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us, and we're going to make it sound like the Pentecost story in our room! When the disciples all spoke in different languages, they all spoke at once and it was noisy! I'll start our prayer, then—when I ring the bell—I'd like each of you to start offering prayers at the same time. When I ring the bell again, I'd like all of you to stop saying your prayers aloud. Then we'll finish the prayer together. Please pray with me:

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to be there with us when we need it most.

Ring bell. (Children pray aloud individually, all at once.)

Ring bell. (Children stop praying aloud.)

Thank you for the Holy Spirit.

Amen!